

One of the chief tasks confronting the authors was to find means of estimating the mental status of the patients and of measuring mental progress. This latter problem arose also in the endeavour to assess the results of physio-therapeutic measures applied. The results achieved in the application of a battery of mental tests are given in detail, with a critical statement as to their application and interpretation, and of the validity of the findings made. This particular part of the study is an example of a type of study that should receive more attention than it has done in the medical field, if we are to make progress in the understanding and correct treatment of cases associated with cerebral damage. A chapter on etiology is included, which contains a review of the literature. The section on physical therapy is worthy of particular mention as a serious effort to evaluate in critical fashion the results of such treatment. Complete accounts are given of the birth and developmental histories, accompanied by photographs of the subjects. Also worthy of mention are the summaries given at the end of each chapter; these should prove of assistance to many readers.

This book should be in the hands of the many members of the medical profession who have to deal with such cases—the paediatrician, orthopaedist, neurologist and psychiatrist. Last, but not least, it is to be hoped that it will not be overlooked by the obstetrician and neuro-surgeon. It is to be hoped, also, that the prevalence of such cases will be greatly reduced by the cooperative efforts of these two branches of medicine.

Hookworm Infection. Clayton Lane, M.D., Lieut.-Colonel, Indian Medical Service (Ret'd.). 319 pages, illustrated. Price \$7.50. Oxford University Press, London; McAlinsh & Co., Toronto, 1932.

The task of reviewing a book dealing with an exotic subject is not an easy one. The incidence of hookworm infection in Canada is not a topic of paramount importance to the Canadian practitioner. Nevertheless it is a matter of no inconsiderable academic interest. We have now plenty of what used to be uncommon infections in this country. Trade and commerce are responsible for more than *industrial reciprocity*. The tropical, subtropical and temperate zones, in the course of international relations, are prone to be linked up as harbingers of exotic as well as indigenous entities of "grief" both in matters of business and public health. It is therefore desirable that at least a nodding acquaintance with unusual clinical phenomena should be cultivated. The book under review brings the subject of ankylostomiasis into the higher consciousness of members of our profession, whose day's work is directed chiefly to indigenous clinical problems. For this reason, we may be prepared the better to recognize the exotic in isolated instances when ordinary processes of analysis are ineffective.

From a practical point of view in this northern latitude, the study of certain bizarre forms of anæmia should not be regardless of such important etiological factors as *Necator americanus*, *Ancylostoma duodenale*, and *Ancylostoma braziliense*. The monograph of Lieut.-Colonel Clayton Lane is calculated to supply a highly valuable source of reference to any Northerner whose clinical alertness or scientific curiosity directs his attention to a subject which in other parts of the world is of the very greatest importance.

The essentials of research in parasitology may be summed up as: (1) the biological characters of a given organism; (2) the inter-relationship of the organism to man and to animal or plant life; (3) the modes of infection; (4) the pathological effects upon the host or hosts including the question of immunity; (5) the clinical manifestations of that pathology; (6) the methods of precision in establishing the diagnosis; (7) the treatment, curative and preventive. The text under review may be stated unequivocally to cover these points. The bibliographical references in half a dozen languages

and covering a score of pages would indicate the very wide reading that the author has accomplished in synthesizing his material. At the same time the text itself smacks of a very profound first-hand and authoritative knowledge of the subject. There is no undue suggestion of scissors and paste-pot. Colonel Lane's magnum opus is a monument to his unremitting study which Indian Army service has made possible. His book is ample evidence of his devotion to his task and of his faculty of filling the unforgiving minute with sixty seconds worth of distance run.

Diabetes in Childhood and Adolescence. Priscilla White, M.D., Physician at the New England Deaconess Hospital, Boston. 236 pages, illustrated. Price \$3.75. Lea & Febiger, Philadelphia, 1932.

The facts recorded in this book are based on the study of 750 juvenile patients. The etiology of diabetes may be heredity. It may be inherited as a recessive character. Interesting data pointing in this direction are given. In October, 1931, 39 per cent, or 208 children among 533 living patients studied, showed hereditary diabetes, in 72 diabetic children who have lived 10 years or more the hereditary element has reached 53 per cent. The relative incidence of infections in the past history of diabetic children prior to the onset of the disease has not even equalled that of the general juvenile population, thus the somewhat prevalent belief that infections cause diabetes in childhood is shown to be false. Treatment is fully and definitely discussed. The optimism which has always radiated from Joslin's clinic shines through the book. "With insulin treatment the death rate from diabetes in childhood has fallen to the vanishing point, growth in height and weight are assured and it is becoming apparent that complications are exceptional in the patient whose disease is controlled."

Any general practitioner who treats diabetic children should own and study this book. Those especially interested in diabetes will find the book an authoritative reference.

Sound Conduction and Hearing. A. Zünd-Burguet, Doc. Univ. Paris. Translated by Macleod Yearsley, F.R.C.S., Consulting Aural Surgeon to St. James' Hospital. 139 pages. Price \$2.40. John Bale, Sons & Danielsson, London; Macmillan Co., Toronto, 1932.

This book is of great interest in that it deals with the subject in a constructive manner and very thoroughly. Beginning with a historical review of the evolution of the conceptions of the mechanism of hearing from the time of Hippocrates to the middle of the 19th century, the author traces the gradual change from the hypothesis of sound conduction by the air of the middle ear and the sound window to those of transmission by the ossicles and oval window. As regards perception the early idea was that it was the function of the labyrinth as a whole. Later this function was allotted to the cochlea, and finally came the theory which named the cochlea as an analyzing agent. From these sources the Helmholtz theories of sound conduction and perception were built up, and some eight pages are devoted to a brief summary and preliminary discussion of these in themselves.

As regards present views on the perception of sound the brief chapter on this subject is brought to a conclusion with the following remarks: "How does a sound impress the nerve endings? The question is extremely complex, and is not solved in the present state of knowledge. At all events, the hypothesis of Helmholtz appears untenable."

The penultimate chapter is devoted to a "critical examination of the chief experiments and interpretations which have been deduced therefrom." Finally, we come to the chapter dealing with the theory of sound conduction supported by the author. Drawing proof from comparative anatomy, physiology, histology, pathology